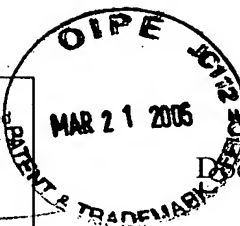


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 456044670 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 21, 2005

Signature: 

(Richard Zimmermann)



Docket No.: 30572/40755  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Fritz Appel et al.

Application No.:

Confirmation No.:

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: 1742

For: METHOD FOR THE TREATMENT OF  
METALLIC MATERIALS

Examiner: S. Ip

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.